

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
ACDA-10 EB-08 NRC-07 OES-06 ERDA-07 COME-00 TRSE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9733

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, PARM, BR, GW

SUBJECT: BRAZILIAN NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH WEST GERMANY AND THE
U.S. -- PRESS INTERVIEW WITH JOSEPH NYE

1. SUMMARY. O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO'S JAN. 23 EDITION
CARRIED EXCERPTS OF ITS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT'S INTERVIEW
WITH A NEWLY-APPOINTED DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL, JOSEPH NYE.
ACCORDING TO THE STORY, NYE SAID: (A) THE U.S. WOULD
ASSURE BRAZIL A GUARANTEED SUPPLY OF ENRICHED URANIUM FUEL
FOR REACTORS IN EXCHANGE FOR ABANDONING THE URANIUM ENRICHMENT
AND REPROCESSING PROJECTS FORESEEN IN THE BRAZILIAN-GERMAN
NUCLEAR AGREEMENT; AND (B) THIS "POSITIVE" POSITION RESPECTS
BRAZIL'S POLITICAL ASPIRATIONS AND ENERGY NECESSITIES,
WHICH THE U.S. WOULD GUARANTEE BY ITSELF OR THROUGH AN
INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM. NYE REPORTEDLY EMPHASIZED THE
ROLES OF MUTUAL CONSULTATIONS AND "DISCRETE DIPLOMACY"
WITH BRAZIL. HE OBSERVED THAT THE U.S. IS NOT TRYING TO
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PREVENT BRAZIL FROM BECOMING A GREAT POWER. NYE POINTED
OUT THAT THE U.S. AND BRAZIL SHOULD HAVE A COMMON CONCERN
IN AVOIDING NUCLEAR ARMS PROLIFERATION. HE REPORTEDLY
EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT SOME POLITICALLY UNSTABLE COUNTRIES
COULD GAIN THE CAPACITY TO FABRICATE NUCLEAR ARMS. ACCORDING
TO O ESTADO, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD NO REACTION TO NYE'S
STATEMENT, BUT UNIDENTIFIED BRAZILIAN SOURCES ASCERTED THAT

BRAZIL'S POSITION WAS FIRM. THE EMBASSY WILL MAKE NO COMMENTS UNLESS THE DEPARTMENT PROVIDES GUIDANCE. THE EMBASSY WILL REFER ANY QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS TO THE DEPARTMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. O ESTADO'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT, SERGIO MOTTA MELLO, REPORTED THAT HE HAD AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH NYE, WHO IS IDENTIFIED AS A DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SECURITY, AND AS HAVING RESPONSIBILITIES FOR NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION. THE STORY SAID NYE'S POSITION IS A NEW ONE, ESTABLISHED BECAUSE OF THE PRESIDENT'S DETERMINATION "TO ELIMINATE ALL NUCLEAR ARMS FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH."

3. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE STORY APPEARED ON THE FRONT-PAGE UNDER THE BANNER HEADLINE, "THE UNITED STATES WILL GIVE GUARANTEES IF BRAZIL CHANGES THE AGREEMENT." THE FULL STORY WAS CARRIED IN THE INSIDE PAGES UNDER T T HEADLINE, "THE UNITED STATES OFFERS BRAZIL AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE AGREEMENT."

4. ACCORDING TO THE STORY, BRAZIL COULD OBTAIN A GUARANTEED SUPPLY OF NUCLEAR FUEL FROM THE U.S. IN EXCHANGE FOR ABANDONING TWO PROJECTS OF THE BRAZILIAN-GERMAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT: THE CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITIES FOR URANIUM ENRICHMENT AND FOR "REPROCESSING OF SPENT FUEL (IN WHICH PLUTONIUM IS OBTAINED FOR THE FABRICATION OF THE BOMB)." ACCORDING TO THE STORY, NYE DID NOT SPECIFY THE DETAILS OF THE NEW POLICY, WHICH ENJOYS A CONSENSUS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE BUT WHICH STILL DEPENDS ON INTER-AGENCY STUDIES OF UNCLASSIFIED

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VIABILITY BEFORE BEING ADOPTED AS ONE OF THE ALTERNATIVES AND IMPLEMENTED BY THE USG. NEVERTHELESS, ACCORDING TO THE STORY, NYE WAS CLEAR IN ESTABLISHING THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF THE POLICY: "IT IS A POSITIVE POSITION, OF RESPECT FOR THE POLITICAL ASPIRATIONS AND THE ENERGY NECESSITIES OF BRAZIL, WHICH THE UNITED STATES WOULD GUARANTEE INDIVIDUALLY OR THROUGH AN INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM RESPONSIBLE FOR FURNISHING NUCLEAR FUEL AS A SUBSTITUTE MEASURE FOR THE EXPORTATION OF URANIUM ENRICHMENT AND REPROCESSING TECHNOLOGY."

5. THUS BRAZIL, ACCORDING TO THE STORY, WOULD HAVE ENRICHED URANIUM WITH GUARANTEES AS TO THE TERM, PRICE, AND CONDITIONS OF SUPPLY, BY MEANS OF SPECIAL MECHANISMS ESTABLISHED AFTER MUTUAL CONSULTATIONS. EVERYTHING WOULD BE OF A FORM THAT WOULD ASSURE BRAZIL OF TOTAL SECURITY IN ACCESS TO SOURCES OF FUEL, NOT ONLY TO SUPPLY TWO REACTORS CONTRACTED WITH WEST GERMANY, BUT PRINCIPALLY TO SUPPLY BRAZIL'S FUTURE ENERGY NECESSITIES. WHEN NYE SPEAKS OF "MUTUAL CONSULTATIONS,"

THE STORY SAID, HE IS UNDERLINING THE IMPORTANCE OF "DISCRETE DIPLOMACY" IN AN EVENTUAL PROCESS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT. HE EXPLAINS: "DISCRETE DIPLOMACY MEANS NOT TO ADOPT A POSITION OF CRITICIZING BRAZIL, WOUNDING THE SENSIBILITIES OF A COUNTRY WHICH WE REALLY CONSIDER IMPORTANT. IN TRUTH THE QUESTION IS NOT ONE OF A THREAT TO US (THE UNITED STATES), BUT RATHER IT IS OF A TYPE OF COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP, ONE OF MUTUAL DEDICATION. THE IDEA IS TO SHOW THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT THAT WHAT WE DESIRE FOR BRAZIL IS, IN THE LONG RUN, THE SAME AS WHAT WE DESIRE FOR THE UNITED STATES, THAT IS: THE ELIMINATION OF THE CAPACITY TO MAKE NUCLEAR ARMS."

6. NYE THINKS THAT, IN THE CASE OF BRAZIL, ACCORDING TO THE STORY, THE U.S. POSITION (WHICH, IF IMPLEMENTED, WOULD APPLY TO ALL

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COUNTRIES OF THE WESTERN WORLD), COINCIDES WITH NATIONAL ANXIETIES: "WE SHOULD HAVE AN ATTITUDE FAVORABLE TO BRAZILIAN ASPIRATIONS OF BEING A GREAT POWER. AS WELL, WE SHOULD HAVE AN ATTITUDE FAVORABLE TO THE SUPPLY OF BRAZIL'S ENERGY NECESSITIES. WE ARE NOT TRYING TO PREVENT BRAZIL FROM TRANSFORMING ITSELF INTO A POWER. THE POWER OF BRAZIL ALWAYS IS GOING TO GROW; THIS IS INEVITABLE AND OUGHT TO BE WELL RECEIVED BY US (THE UNITED STATES)." ACCORDING TO THE STORY, NYE "DID NOT HIDE SOME CRITICISMS OF PAST U.S.

FOREIGN POLICY IN LATIN AMERICA," WHICH HE CLASSIFIED AS
"PATERNAL". HE "REVEALED HIMSELF FAVORABLE TO A NEW
DIALOGUE 'OF EQUAL TO EQUAL.'"

7. NYE REPORTEDLY SAID: "I THINK THAT IN THE NUCLEAR FIELD
THE UNITED STATES AS WELL AS BRAZIL NOW SHOULD HAVE THE
COMMON CONCERN TO AVOID THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR ARMS
(OR THE CAPABILITY TO FABRICATE THEM) BY VERY SMALL
AND UNSTABLE NATIONS. FOR IF SUCH SENSITIVE TECHNOLOGY AS
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THAT FOR URANIUM ENRICHMENT AND REPROCESSING IS SPREAD,
THE WORLD WILL BE MUCH LESS SECURE, INCLUDING BRAZIL."
BUY NYE REJECTS, ACCORDING TO THE STORY, THE THESIS THAT
THE PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION WOULD RESULT, IN THE
LAST INSTANCE, IN THE FREEZING OF WORLD POWER IN THE HANDS
OF A SMALL GROUP OF GREAT POWERS. "THINGS DO NOT FUNCTION
THIS WAY," NYE SAID, CLARIFYING THAT THE QUESTION
OF NUCLEAR ESCALATION IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE
UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION IS SOMETHING TO BE
DEALT WITH SEPARATELY. ALSO, THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS
THE ATOMIC BOMB IS A PROBLEM LESS SERIOUS THAN ITS POSSESSION
BY 'CERTAIN COUNTRIES: LOOK AT THE EXAMPLE OF THE
WAR IN VIET NAM, WHEN WE COULD HAVE USED ATOMIC ARMS AND,
IN CONSIDERATION OF THE HUMAN AND MORAL COSTS OF SUCH A
DISASTER, WE DID NOT."

8. ACCORDING TO THE STORY: "THIS IS THE PRINCIPAL FEAR OF
THE NEW U.S. DIPLOMACY, WHICH NYE THINKS OUGHT TO BE SHARED
BY THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT: (THE FEAR) THAT NATIONS WILL
COME TO MASTER NUCLEAR TECHNIQUES, FABRICATE THE BOMB, AND
ONE DAY AN ISOLATED ACCIDENT ENDS UP BEING TRANSFORMED INTO
A UNIVERSAL CATASTROPHE." ACCORDING TO NYE, "THE PROBLEM IS THAT
PRACTICALLY ALL COUNTRIES WANT TO HAVE NUCLEAR ARMS
BECAUSE THEY THINK THEY WILL BE MORE POWERFUL WITH THEM.
THEY COMPARE THEMSELVES TO THOSE THAT ALREADY HAVE THE
BOMB BUT FOREGET THOSE THAT ARE BEHIND (THE SMALL NATIONS),
THOSE NEXT IN LINE THAT SAY, FOR EXAMPLE: WELL, IF BRAZIL
HAS THE CAPACITY TO FABRICATE NUCLEAR ARMS THEN WE TOO ARE
GOING TO HAVE IT. AND THUS IT SPREADS: FIRST ONE, THEN
ANOTHER, THEN ANOTHER . . ." TO NYE, ACCORDING TO THE
STORY, "SOME OF THESE COUNTRIES TEND TO BE VERY UNSTABLE
POLITICALLY. SOONER OR LATER THEY CAN REACH A SITUATION
IN WHICH THEY ARE BACKED AGAINST THE WALL AND IN DANGER
OF USING THEIR NUCLEAR ARMS. THIS IS NOT A FUTURE FOR THE
WORLD THAT EITHER THE UNITED STATES OR BRAZIL IMAGINES."

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9. THE STORY SAID NYE, AN EX-HARVARD PROFESSOR, WOULD LIKE TO SEE A WORLD LIKE THAT DESCRIBED BY THE PRESIDENT IN HIS INAUGURATION ADDRESS: WITHOUT NUCLEAR ARMS. BUT, ACCORDING TO THE STORY, "THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT IN THE SHORT-RUN THE U.S. WILL ADOPT POSITIONS, ESPECIALLY IN RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION, 'IN DETRIMENT TO OUR VITAL INTERESTS AND TO THE WORLD STRATEGIC EQUILIBRIUM, WHICH ALSO IS IN THE INTEREST OF BRAZIL.'" NYE "INSISTS IN REAFFIRMING THAT, IN PARALLEL WITH NEGOTIATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION FOR THE REDUCTION OF NUCLEAR ARMS, 'WE ARE GOING TO DEVELOP NUCLEAR THEMES IN WORLD POLITICS.'"

10. ACCORDING TO THE STORY, THE INTERVIEW WITH SERGIO MOTTA MELLO ENDED WITH AN OBSERVATION FROM NYE: OPPOSITION TO NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION IS WIDELY SHARED BY U.S. PUBLIC OPINION AND IT HAS REACHED CONGRESS. "THERE ALREADY EXIST NEW DRAFT BILLS PROPOSING THE CONTROL, AND EVEN THE CUTOFF, OF AMERICAN EXPORTS TO COUNTRIES THAT TRANSFER URANIUM ENRICHMENT AND REPROCESSING TECHNOLOGY. HENCE, ALSO OUR PREOCCUPATION FOR A DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION WITHIN A CLIMATE OF GOOD WILL AND MUTUAL COOPERATION ON THE QUESTION OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION."

11. FOREIGN MINISTRY REACTION. ACCORDING TO AN ACCOMPANYING STORY IN O ESTADO, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD NO COMMENT ON "NYE'S PROPOSAL," ABOUT WHICH THE MINISTRY WAS UNINFORMED SINCE THERE HAD BEEN NO OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION AND THE GEISEL ADMINISTRATION EXCEPT A CONGRATULATORY TELEGRAM ON THE PRESIDENT'S INAUGURATION. O ESTADO SAID "SOURCES CONNECTED WITH BRAZIL'S ENERGY SECTOR" OBSERVED THAT BRAZIL'S POSITION ON THE BRAZILIAN-GERMAN AGREEMENT REMAINS UNALTERED, THERE BEING NO INDICATION OF A CHANGE. "BRAZIL ALREADY HAS MANIFESTED WITH FIRMNESS ITS INTENTION TO OBTAIN THE FULL CYCLE OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY IN ORDER TO GUARANTEE ITS FUTURE INDEPENDENCE IN THIS SECTOR.' RECENTLY, DURING THE VISIT OF THE CANADIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO BRAZIL, UNCLASSIFIED

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BRAZIL'S FOREIGN MINISTRY LEFT NO DOUBTS ABOUT BRAZIL'S POSITION IN AFFIRMING THAT 'INFLUENCES COMING FROM ABROAD WILL NOT MANAGE TO PREVENT BRAZIL FROM DEVELOPING FULLY, FRUSTRATING OUR DESTINY AS A NATION.'"

12. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY WILL REFER ANY QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS TO THE DEPARTMENT. THE EMBASSY WILL MAKE NO COMMENT UNLESS THE DEPARTMENT PROVIDES GUIDANCE. CRIMMINS

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Message Attributes

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